

The Ohio Senate

Higher Education Subcommittee

Testimony of Cassandra Harper, student at DeVry University, Columbus

May 20, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee and I am very excited to be here. My name is Cassandra Harper and I am a student at DeVry University in Columbus Ohio. I will be graduating in December with a Bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering. I received a job opportunity at Flight Safety international here in Columbus, thanks to the career fair at DeVry.

I would like to take a few moments of your time to speak about myself; thankfully I'm in a great point in my life where I am finishing my degree and have even found a career path to help ground me here, in my home, Ohio.

After growing up on a farm with my mother and working on all manner of devices with my grandfather, I realized I wanted to go into engineering. I believed my best option was DeVry University, because with a hands on career the most important edge you can receive is real world experience. I've had to fight a lot of small battles with higher education, but with DeVry I really saw people listen and try hard to work for individual students. It wasn't until DeVry that I got see what it was like on all sides of the table. Between the concerns of students, professors and other staff. At DeVry they built up my confidence as a student in the classroom and taught me how to handle myself outside of it as well. I believe many feel that schools try really hard to put students into the same box, but I felt that DeVry is trying to change that or at the very least help. So that students aren't meandering around applying money and time on unnecessary courses. I gained a better understanding about what it is like in a business world, rather than just theories and postulation in a classroom. I've been given many new challenges and opportunities with DeVry, which I couldn't have received anywhere else. I am very thankful I was given the chance to speak here on their behalf.

Throughout every step I've been thankfully give help, from Federal and State aid and my family. My grandfather was a very intelligent man, he loved a challenge and he always found a way to help people. Because of his skills, belief in himself and others he started his own elevator company. Which became the second largest elevator company in Ohio. Not for himself but for the betterment of those he worked with and his family. I am here not just for myself but for all those I've been in school with for years and those in building helping those students. I've seen their struggles and the hard work people put in to better themselves and their families. Higher education can be a hard road not only in schooling but in the overall effect it has on someone's life. You have to remain dedicated and persistent to get what you want out of higher education. At DeVry I've learned just that and want it to remain the

embodiment of fidelity and satisfaction to all those who have the chance to pass through its doors as a confident graduate.

Many things in life change but we all have to adapt and keep fighting for the things we believe in. So I ask you to please continue to supporting students with the OCOG so that they may find gainful employment in timely manner on an affordable budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration

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